



Water & Environment Sector PROJECT PROFILE

May 2012



A Peace Corps Volunteer trains Jordanian women on the H2Hope curriculum which promotes water conservation at the community level.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Implemented by: Peace Corps

Duration: 2011 – 2013

Total Funding: \$242,000

Beneficiaries: Jordanian communities, youth, families

Geographic Coverage: Nationwide

Enhancing Water Awareness

BACKGROUND

Since 1997, more than 500 American Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) have served Jordan, mostly in underserved rural communities. Their work focuses on youth development and education projects, including sports and other extra-curricular activities, English-language teaching and special education.

Water scarcity is a major problem facing the country. The youth of Jordan will suffer in future years should current patterns of water use persist; they can spearhead needed behavior changes in their families and communities. Because of their close engagement with youth in local communities across the Kingdom, PCVs are well placed to help raise awareness of water depletion and alternative approaches that place less of a strain on water resources.

Enhancing Water Awareness (EWA) can also complement English-language education and special education within the Peace Corps/Jordan program and allows for any PCV to engage in secondary project activities with the theme of environmental education. PCVs are development catalysts within their communities, and, working with their counterparts, they can be an important voice in raising awareness and discussing alternatives.

This project seeks to mobilize grassroots action at the rural and municipal levels through the achievement of the following goals:

- Develop grassroots awareness of water scarcity and the need for stewardship and good management
- Educate and mobilize rural populations about the genuineness of water scarcity, its causes and how to address those issues
- Utilize grants to promote water awareness, conservation, stewardship, and restoration of watershed and catchment areas
- Develop and publish educational material for use with existing Peace Corps programs

ACTIVITIES

- Developing two major curriculum sets -- Brain Camp, to develop critical thinking skills with a water-awareness component, and H₂Hope, a practical approach to water conservation at the community level



This new rainwater catchment and storage system will help ensure a regular supply of clean water at a boys' school in the Irbid Governorate.

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- Training over 50 PCVs in Jordan to use both curriculum sets
- Developing a mini-grant component to support the use of EWA curricula by PCVs in their communities
- Developing a project grant component which supports large-scale environmental and water-related projects
- Establishing a PCV EWA committee

PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Engaged more than 1,000 Jordanians in PCV communities in the EWA curricula, using EWA mini-grants for PCV activities
- Created a film club at the Princess Basma Youth Resource Center in Karak, using film to increase understanding of environmental issues that Jordan faces due to water scarcity
- Installed a rainwater catchment system and provided a sustainable, renewable, and clean supply of drinking water to Mecca Essential School for Boys in Hofa Al-Wastiyya, a village of 5,000 people, 12 km west of Irbid
- Completed an energy and water audit of the Mabarrat Um Al-Hussein Orphanage.

PARTNERS

- Peace Corps Volunteers and their host country counterparts
- Mabarrat Um Al-Hussein Orphanage
- Mecca Essential School for Boys, Hofa al-Wastiyya
- Princess Basma Youth Resource Center, Karak
- Think Unlimited Organization (NGO)